

THE CITY OF BALTIMORE OFF CAPE RACE.

The Earl Russell on American Affairs.

THE DUKE D'ANNOLE FOR THE UNION.

GARIBOLDI STILL AT CAPRERA.

Poland Declared in a State of Siege.

INVASION OF MONTENEGRO BY THE TURKS.

THE STATE OF EUROPE.

The cotton question in England becomes every day more serious.

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public opinion, may probably be on consigned to oblivion.

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS.

It had been decided in Liverpool to raise £25,000 to repair the Great Eastern and pay the second mortgage of 10 per cent.

The Earl Russell, in a speech at Newcastle, deplored the manner which has befallen the United States. He said he could not see that harmony could be restored either by the surrender or subjugation of the South. The English Government has no immediate power or interest in the matter, but must watch closely what happens, and if the occasion offers, use its influence in the cause of freedom and humanity.

The Duke of Annole, in a letter, rejects the idea that his nephew has joined the American army, and on the right side.

Mr. Russell's last letter to the *London Times* is dated from Wisconsin. He says he heard expressions of discontent, and even Secession sentiments uttered in the West.

The *London Star* denounces the existence of a party in England that seeks to embroil that country with the United States, in order to reopen the cotton trade.

Parliament had been further prorogued nominally to the 17th of December.

The King of Holland was on a visit to the Emperor Napoleon.

The King of Prussia visited the King of Denmark on Italian affairs, &c., was pronounced a pure invention.

It is rumored that M. Fould will resume the Ministry of Finance.

Paris Bourse was flat. Rentes closed firm at 67.50.

Breadstuffs in Paris were declining.

It was reported that the French naval reserve is to be kept in such condition that a large fleet can be ready in an incredibly short time.

Gen. D'Almeida had accepted the command of the forces of the Neapolitan provinces. He does not get the civil power enjoyed by Gen. Cialdini.

The departure of Garibaldi from Caprera was contrived.

The King and Queen of Prussia made a solemn entry in Königsberg on the 14th. The ceremony was brilliant and imposing.

A proclamation was published in Warsaw on the 14th declaring Poland in a state of siege. The military authorities occupied the public squares of Warsaw. A national demonstration had been fixed for the 15th. There was no news to the result.

The cotton question in Spain were closing on account of a lack of the raw material.

The Turks had commenced an invasion of Montenegro. Prince Montenegro protested.

Telegrams of the India, China, and Australia mails had been received. The mails were due in London on the 15th. The news was received by the harbor of the Cotton States are blockaded by the Federal fleet, and a most industrious population in England and France stands on the threshold of starvation for want of sufficient raw material. It is important for the statesmen of the manufacturing States of Europe to assemble an important naval force in the Gulf of Mexico, in the very neighborhood of the blockaded ports, in order to set the cotton free which is accumulating in the Southern States. The expedition against Mexico is in fact nothing else but a pretext, and England and France against the Cotton States under false pretenses; as soon as the combined fleet has arrived in the Gulf of Mexico, the Embassadors of Napoleon and Queen Victoria will offer their mediation between the now contending States of North America, and you know that a mediation backed by a powerful fleet is always dangerous.

For the success of the good cause of the Union, therefore, we hope that the war may soon be prosecuted with less circumspection, and that a decisive blow may be struck before the European Powers can intermeddle, which at any rate must be more favorable to the insurgent South than to the Union.

You will remember have seen from the leading article of *The Times* that the policy of the ruling classes in England is adverse to the United States, but be certain that the great mass of intelligent Englishmen have the warmest sympathy for the North. The politicians, however, in Europe, as well as across the Atlantic, are always more energetic, and find means to neutralize the action of the sober and somewhat slower thinkers and workers.

In France, too, the Southerners have many friends around the Emperor, and one real victory on their side would suffice to have the Confederation officially acknowledged. It is the cotton question which we cannot at once leave out of sight, since it interests so great a number of the working population, while the supplies from India and Egypt do not suffice at the first moment. Still all over Europe the Liberals feel for the North, and though the Southerners tried to enlist European officers in France and Italy, they have not met, as yet, with any success. There is a Major O'Brien now here at Turin, an ex-Garibaldian, who attempted to induce some followers of Garibaldi to offer their services to the South, but he failed, principally since it became known that Garibaldi's sympathies are all for the North. There are, however, many croakers in England and all over the Continent who, professing to be Union men, lament that the North cannot succeed, and pretend that it is not slavery but free trade which lies at the bottom of the Southern rebellion. These Americans, most of them Democrats, but who by their long residence in Europe have become estranged from their country, and do not follow the noble example given by the Democratic party North, have no small influence with the press, and up to a certain degree have succeeded in embittering the feeling against the Federal cause.

It is interview between the King of Prussia and the Emperor Napoleon makes a great noise all over Germany. We do not know as yet whether it is only an exchange of courtesy or a diplomatic event of great magnitude. A semi-official pamphlet, published about the time of the interview, tries to appease the apprehensions of the Germans about the French appetite for the Rhine, and says that a rectification of the frontier, by which the fortresses Landau, &c., &c., built by the French, would be ceded to France, might sufficiently guarantee the interests of France without hurting Germany; but the reconstruction of Poland is advocated as the most conservative measure for insuring the peace of Europe. All these schemes have no practical result for the present moment; they are only put before the public to familiarize Europe with far-reaching ideas. The revival of the Polish question seems to indicate that there is no great sympathy between the Governments of France and Russia; but, on the other hand, we have not yet seen Russia and Austria drawing closer, to each other. The Grand-Duke Constantine, traveling up the Danube to Hamburg, and England, avoided going to Vienna, though he was only at an hour's distance from the capital.

The difficulties of the Austrian Government in Hungary are on the increase; still the Minister, Schun von, and his centralizing state constitutionalism, has not yet favor with Francis Joseph. One year has already been lost by the experiment to centralize all the provinces of the reigning house, through the Vienna Imperial Council, without bringing any relief to the overburdened treasury, and it seems that with a few years the old system of despotism will again be revived. In Hungary we expect to see the officials of Károlyi's period returning to take their place, since no Hungarians are found to administer the country according to the behests of the Central Government, and at Vienna the Imperial Council, during the first session of seven months, has done nothing to show that the details must have been unusually afflicting.

I am apprehensive of omitting much that should be essential to a narrative of the proceedings, but I must hasten to give the decisive features of such accounts as have hitherto been laid before me. Late on Sunday night (I note all as it is told me by trustworthy witnesses of what passed) detachments of the Massachusetts 15th and 20th Regiments were sent from the Maryland side of the Upper Potomac to Harrison's (or Swan's) Island, 2 miles above Edwards Ferry, with orders to stand in readiness to cross to Virginia at midnight. It was understood that Quartermaster Howe of the 15th Massachusetts had been over with a scouting party, and had reported that a small Rebel camp lay within easy carrying distance of the shore; and the impression then was that the expedition was to carry out this purpose. However, this might be, at about midnight 200 of the 15th Regiment, under Col. Devens, were sent over from the Island, with 100 of the 20th, under Col. Lee, as a reserve force. The means of crossing were abominably inadequate. Three boats only were employed, one capable of holding 16 persons, the other two holding 4 or 5 each. There is no question but that better transports could have been obtained at expense of very slight trouble. The canal, close by, was filled with boats which could have been transferred to the river with comparatively little difficulty, since communication is furnished by a lock close at hand. However, the crossing was, after a time, effected, and during the early morning, the little body of the 15th were moving cautiously toward Leesburg, but not finding what was expected, withdrew toward the river bank and waited for further orders. No sign of the enemy was given until about 9 o'clock, when part of what is supposed to have been a Mississippi regiment appeared, and immediately engaged our advance. By one musket discharge of the rebels at this time, some dozen of Company H., 15th Regiment, were seriously wounded, and three were killed. The enemy, however, were for a short time driven back, but, being powerfully reinforced, they again became the assailants, and thus the 15th Regiment went back upon the reserve of the 20th. All this fighting took place within a very limited extent of ground, and lasted about half an hour. Col. Lee sent a note to Gen. Stone, saying, "Devens has fallen back on me. We intend to fight." Probably in consequence of this intelligence 300 additional men of the 15th were sent over from the island as reinforcements. Nothing serious occurred, although slight skirmishes were ventured from time to time until 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when Col. Baker crossed with a part of his California Regiment, a further detachment of the Massachusetts 20th, a company or two of Col. Cogswell's Tammany Regiment, and a small selection from the Pennsylvania 20th. Colonel Baker at once assumed command, and disposed his forces for battle. The ground was not favorable for our men, and so far as I can learn, was, in every strategic consideration, an unfortunate one. It was an open field, at the summit of the steep acclivity which the Virginia shore is at this point. In case of a defeat—as it afterward proved—no possibility of successful retreat existed. The field, which occupied altogether some twelve or fifteen acres, extended back for a very short distance, and was on three sides bordered by thick woods. In the woods on the right hand, the men of the Massachusetts 15th, some 600 in number, were placed. At the right of the open space stood the 300 men of the Massachusetts 20th. At the left were the men of the California Regiment, while the Tammany troops held the rear of the center. One rifled cannon, of Vanhousen's Rhode Island Battery, was stationed in front of the left wing, and two mountain howitzers, of Ricketts' battery in front of the right. (These pieces were lost during the engagement.) Our entire force numbered about 1,800 men.

Toward 3 o'clock the rebels, without coming into view, suddenly opened a severe fire of musketry from the woods facing our line. The cannon and artillery forces attached to the field pieces, were almost all shot down at this opening discharge, and the infantry suffered heavily. Our men responded with vigor, but it was apparent that the odds in numbers, as well as in position, were vastly in favor of the rebels. The working of our guns was soon interrupted, and not more than half a dozen rounds were fired during the four hours' contest that ensued.

For the last two or three rounds Col. Lee carried up the ammunition with his own hands. In all this time, our men had but occasional glimpses of the enemy, and were, excepting the detachments of the 15th Massachusetts, continually exposed to the view of their opponents. The fire of musketry upon them was almost incessant, but artillery the Rebels did not use, from beginning to end. The slaughter, which we know to have resulted, seems all the more remarkable in view of this fact. It is probable that the Rebels were familiar with the ground, and knew precisely where to direct their volleys; and that the pluck which our men—certainly the Massachusetts men—showed in returning to the same spot of action again, and again, only brought certain and renewed destruction upon them. I am assured that as such new line was formed the Rebel volleys would seem to meet them, and separate them, as if by lightning strokes, into broken and scattered groups. No line could stand before their concentrated fire, and the impossibility of discovering them, sheltered as they were by thick woods, rendered our troops' efforts at retaliation perfectly futile. Beyond all doubt, our force was prodigiously outnumbered. Making every allowance for the exaggerated conjectures which participants in an action like this are apt to make, it seems probable that the odds on the Rebel side were as three to one. They might have been larger, and certainly the almost universal opinion is that they were.

For more than an hour this work continued before our disaster appeared to become overwhelming. A little after 4 o'clock Col. Baker was shot, apparently in the chest or stomach. He was standing in advance of his left, endeavoring to rally a company of Pennsylvania skirmishers. He fell heavily forward, but immediately raised himself upon his hands and knees, and afterward, with an effort, to his feet. He stood erect only for an instant, and, without uttering a word, fell again motionless. It is probable that he received another shot at the moment of rising. I am told that the only wonder is that Col. Baker did not fall earlier, so daringly did he expose himself at all moments during the action.

Toward 6 o'clock, the case was so utterly hopeless, and the impossibility of retreat so evident, that, in spite of the unshrinking determination of the little remainder of our troops, the leading officers counseled a surrender. Col. Lee, after consultation, determined, for the sake of averting needless slaughter, to give up himself and his men. But even after this intention had been communicated, the detachment of the 20th rallied a number of times, and fired steady volleys. It would appear that even at this late period, if a resolute bayonet-charge had been ordered the field might have been saved, for, to the last moment, the courage of our troops was undiminished. But the odds became irregular, the intentions of the leading officers seemed divided, and a little after 6 o'clock the remaining contestants withdrew down the precipitous river bank, and endeavored to recross to the island. Here the general organization of our force was quite abandoned; each company acted separately. The officers and men who could swim started, half naked, over the river, and the boats were kept for a while for the wounded. This, however, lasted but a little time. Presently all order was lost. A large boat was sunk by overcrowding, and scores of men perished, some by drowning, and some by the fire of the Rebels who now crowded the high bank, and poured an incessant fire upon the scattering fugitives. The river

channel was thick with dead and dying bodies, but the hearing of the survivors was strangely quiet—the immobility, perhaps, of desperate hopelessness. Hundreds, probably were there sacrificed. The number of prisoners taken was very large. Parts of the 15th Massachusetts, and some of the Tammany Regiment, pushed down the river as far as Edwards Ferry, and there found, while a portion of the 20th, and some of the California Regiment marched up for a mile, until they came upon a small stranded boat, by means of which they succeeded in slowly crossing.

It is generally estimated that nearly, if not quite, one-half of our force engaged were killed, wounded, or captured. Of the Massachusetts 15th some 200 are unaccounted for, and only two line officers remain at the camp. Of the 20th, 200 also are lost. As to the other regiments, I am not precisely informed. Among the captured are some of our most important officers. Col. Lee, Major Revere, Adj. Pierson and Dr. Revere, of the 20th were taken prisoners. Of this regiment 22 officers entered the combat, and only 9 returned. Lieut. Putnam of Company E was mortally wounded, and died to-day (Wednesday). Capt. Drexler of Company C was severely and probably fatally wounded. Capt. Putnam was captured as a prisoner of the right arm necessary. Capt. Smith, Company E, was severely, but it is hoped not fatally, wounded. Lieut. Holmes was wounded in the breast, but will recover. Lieut. Lowell was slightly injured in the leg. The following are missing: Lieut. Babo, Lieut. Wasselhoff, and Lieut. Perry. It is not possible, in the hurry of this evening (when a general retrospective movement is in progress), to secure particulars in regard to other regiments.

The precise responsibility of the errors of this disastrous occasion is not fixed upon any individual officer. The present doubts will have their settlement in due time.

On Tuesday a flag of truce was sent over from our side, with a proposition for burying the dead. It was consented to, with certain burial restrictions on the part of the rebels. None of our wounded, however, imminent their danger, were suffered to be removed, or succored. Even the burial was only permitted on condition that the entire advance operations of our army should cease meanwhile. I believe that this was agreed to without an objection.

To-day the crossing of the river at this point (which was begun by Gen. Stone on Tuesday), has been interrupted by unfavorable weather. This evening every man is returning from the other side. A complete retreat is ordered. Gen. McClellan is here, and the interest of the army seems to be centered at this point.

LOCAL MILITARY MATTERS.

RETURN OF THREE MONTHS' SERVICE TROOPS.

The Third Squadron of the Third Regiment N. Y. S. M., (Cavalry), left this city for Washington, Md., on the 22d of July, returned last evening, having completed their three months' term of service having expired. The troop numbers seventy-five sabers, and was engaged in bearing dispatches and in performing escort duty to General McClellan and Mr. Call. While encamped in the vicinity of Great Falls they were once shelled out by the Rebels, but despite the constant fire they retired in good order. The men appeared well and in the best uniform. In the morning, their three months' term of service having expired, they were ordered to return to the city. The troop was engaged in bearing dispatches and in performing escort duty to General McClellan and Mr. Call. While encamped in the vicinity of Great Falls they were once shelled out by the Rebels, but despite the constant fire they retired in good order. The men appeared well and in the best uniform. 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